

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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City Receives Report from Independent Legal Audit of Development Process Report Cites Successful Development Record over Several Decades and Highlights Key Recommendations

JERSEY CITY- **Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy** announced today that the city has received the report by attorneys conducting an independent **legal audit of the city's development process**. In August the city retained the law firm of **McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP** to perform a legal audit and analysis of the City's development process to ensure transparency and fairness.

"We felt it was prudent to undertake a legal audit and analysis of our development process in order to verify that it is fully transparent, fair and efficient and to provide a level of confidence with investors in our city as well as with our residents," said **Mayor Healy**.

The report presents eight recommendations including the creation of a guide that explains the practices and procedures of the development process, the designation of an ethics compliance officer, that no elected official should meet with a developer privately on a specific development project and that the city should re-evaluate its Master Plan.

"We believe this report confirms that Jersey City's record of redevelopment is unparalleled throughout the state and the country, and will review this report with the City Council to determine what recommendations the administration will adopt," said **Mayor Healy**. "Whatever steps we can take to keep the progress of the city moving forward, we are happy to take."

Former **Seton Hall Law Dean Ronald J. Riccio**, a key member of the panel who oversaw the legal audit, will present the report to the City Council at the start of their regularly scheduled **6 p.m. Council meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2009**.

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“We interviewed many people, reviewed a significant number of documents, spent hundreds of man hours preparing the report and considered a number of alternatives before presenting our recommendations,” said **Dean Riccio**. “We think this report will be helpful to improving the development process in Jersey City.”

In addition to the legal audit, Mayor Healy also signed an Executive Order in August requiring all City directors and employees who participate in the development process to undergo mandatory ethics training. Approximately 300 city officials participated in the ethics training, which was conducted by William Kearns, Esq., General Counsel to the League of Municipalities.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///